



Figure 1

Figure 2

BEST COMMERCIAL EXTERIOR

BACK TO THE FUTURE

When the Sydney Hilton opened in 1975, it was regarded as Australia’s first internationally branded hotel.

In December 2000 the Hilton ran a design competition in accordance with the City of Sydney Council Design Excellence guidelines.

In January 2001, Johnson Pilton Walker (then Denton Corker Marshall - Sydney) submission, was selected as the winning proposal by the competition jury. Leighton Contractors were appointed in September 2002.

Paul van Ratingen, one of the project directors, described the redevelopment of the existing hotel as “a complete rebuild of the podium after stripping the existing structure to its essential elements. The remaining structural

elements created the dramatic volumes and sequence of space that defined a perfect framework for the new hotel arrangement.”

The design concept emerged from an appreciation of the inherent and unique qualities of the site, fronting both George and Pitt Streets, overlooking the majestic Queen Victoria Building and its sandstone façade.

A simple palette of granite, sandstone and glass reinforce the contemporary architecture developed in sympathy with the grain, scale, texture and materials of the historic Town Hall and QVB Precinct. (Figure 1)

Randomly spaced oval sandstone and granite columns of monumental proportions shuffle across at irregular angles to form an immense screen that sustains the street alignment, opens

SPECIFICATIONS

- ARCHITECT**
Johnson Pilton Walker Pty Ltd
- CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**
Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd
- FAÇADE ENGINEER**
Hyder Consulting
- PROJECT MANAGER**
Page Kirkland Management
- STONE SUPPLIERS**
Sandstone by Gosford Quarries
Loretto Limestone by Exclusive Stone
Austral Verde Granite by Dimension Stone Group Australia



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

broad vistas from within and clear pedestrian openings at ground level. (Figure 2)

Each column is constructed from substantial curved blocks of butt jointed Piles Creek sandstone and Austral Verde granite. The scale of the blocks visually supports the monumentality of each column element and the subtle colour variation in each panel expresses the natural material. (Figure 3)

Gosford Quarries Piles Creek sandstone was deliberately selected and crafted to visually connect with the opulence of the sandstone heritage Queen Victoria Building shown reflected in the glass façade. (Figure 4)

The Hilton restaurant 'Glass' overlooks the sandstone facade of the Queen Victoria Building. This rich visual combination reinforces the brasserie ambience and traditional French food preparation. (Figure 5)

The link with the past is highlighted by this stunning view of the Queen Victoria Building dome framed neatly between sandstone columns. (Figure 6)



Figure 6